

Chairman Luick and Committee Members,

My name is Khloe Sobolik, and I serve as the Secretary of the Pierce County Fair in Rugby. I urge you to support **HB 1591**, which provides funding for county fairs across North Dakota.

Personal Experience

I understand that some of you may question the necessity of funding for county fairs. At one point, I would have been skeptical myself. I didn't grow up on a farm, wasn't a 4-H member, and Rugby didn't even have a county fair when I was a child. My family would attend the State Fair, but not for the rides, food, or concerts. Instead, we spent our time visiting the exhibits and the animal barns—something I didn't fully appreciate at the time.

That all changed when I became involved with our local fair. Over the past 20 years, I have witnessed firsthand how deeply a county fair impacts a community. I now firmly believe that investing in our fairgrounds is investing in the heart of our towns.

Community & Economic Impact

A county fair is more than just an event; it's a **gathering place that strengthens community bonds** and creates lasting memories. As a teacher, I hear the excitement from our youth as they eagerly prepare projects to display, talk about their animals, or anticipate seeing their artwork hung for all to see. For many, the county fair is the highlight of their year.

Beyond its cultural value, county fairs provide **tangible economic benefits**:

- They support **local businesses** by bringing in vendors, artisans, and food providers.
- They encourage **agricultural education** by giving youth hands-on experiences with livestock and farming.
- They drive **tourism and revenue**, benefiting hotels, restaurants, and gas stations in rural areas.

However, these opportunities come at a cost. Fairgrounds require **safe buildings, well-maintained walkways, and updated facilities** to continue serving their communities. Without proper funding, we risk losing these vital spaces.

Call to Action

I respectfully ask you to **vote YES on HB 1591** and invest in the future of North Dakota's county fairs. By doing so, you are ensuring that families—just like mine—can continue making memories, learning valuable skills, and strengthening their communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.